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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0071

INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

RHMFSS/Joint STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0013

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 000593

SIPDIS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO USOFFICE ALMATY

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PASS TO AMEMBASSY PODGORICA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PASS TO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2019/04/15

TAGS: PREL PGOV BM GR

SUBJECT: Consulting With Greece on the Burma Policy Review

REF: SECSTATE 33547

CLASSIFIED BY: Paul Carter, Deputy Pol Counselor, DoS, Athens;

REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

¶1. (C) On April 10, pol off delivered reftel points on the subject of the ongoing Burma Policy Review to Dora Giovanni, Counselor in the A10 Division for Asia-Oceania. Giovanni appreciated the information and expressed her concern for the situation in Burma, especially in the area of human rights. She discussed the increasing amount of "spillover" refugees into neighboring countries and the effect it had on illegal trade and possibly increased terrorist activity. She also highlighted forced labor, child armies, and the more than 2000 activists and monks currently being held as political prisoners.

¶2. (C) Giovanni stressed that the U.S. and the E.U. should work closely together with other Asian countries, specifically countries of ASEAN, such as Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, because as neighbors, they could more easily implement our policies. She was not very hopeful for the future of Burma, however, because she believed it was a fine line between increased communication with the country and giving the illegally installed government legitimacy. She noted some recent small positive steps, such as the recent visit to Burma by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana. Finally, she welcomed the consultation and interest in the issue, and promised to review the Treasury Department's paper "Technical Analysis of Potential Modifications to EU Sanctions Against Burma."

SPECKHARD